

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00
EB-08 EA-10 FRB-03 INR-10 NEA-11 NSAE-00 ICA-11
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R 092039Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7187
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION USBERLIN
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USNATO

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USEEC

PARIS ALSO FOR USOECD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EEC, BU, EEWT
SUBJ: EC COMMISSION TALKS WITH BULGARIA

REF: 77 BRUSSELS 13113(NOTAL)

1. EC/BULGARIAN RELATIONS TOOK A TENTATIVE STEP FORWARD
WITH THE OPENING OF INFORMAL EXPLORATORY TALKS BETWEEN
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EC COMMISSION OFFICIALS AND A BULGARIAN DELEGATION WEEK
OF JUNE 5 IN BRUSSELS. (COMMENT: ONLY PREVIOUS EC/
BULGARIAN DISCUSSIONS HAVE BEEN ON SECTORAL ISSUES, SUCH
AS STEEL--SEE PARA 3 BELOW.) MISSION HAS LEARNED FROM
EC COMMISSION OFFICIAL WHO TOOK PART IN DISCUSSIONS
(FOUERE) THAT REQUEST FOR TALKS CAME FROM BULGARIANS
AFTER SERIES OF "VAGUE BUT DEFINITE" OVERTURES DURING

RECENT WEEKS. FOUERE OPINED THAT BULGARIAN DEMARCHE WAS STIMULATED LARGELY BY EC DECISION LAST DECEMBER TO APPLY ANTI-DUMPING MEASURES ON STEEL IMPORTS FROM EASTERN EUROPE. HE ALSO COMMENTED THAT BULGARIANS SEEM ANXIOUS TO AVOID PUBLICITY ON THE TALKS.

2. FOUERE SAID BULGARIAN DELEGATION, HEADED BY A DIRECTOR IN MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL TRADE (TOROMANOV), WAS COMPOSED OF RELATIVELY SENIOR OFFICIALS BUT DID NOT INCLUDE ANY EXPERTS ON SUBJECTS UNDER DISCUSSION; COMMISSION SIDE (LED BY LOUIS KAWAN, HEAD OF DIVISION RESPONSIBLE FOR RELATIONS WITH STATE-TRADING COUNTRIES) HAD STRONG IMPRESSION THAT BULGARIANS WERE JUST FEELING THEIR WAY THROUGH TALKS. AS A RESULT, DISCUSSIONS WERE OF A VERY GENERAL NATURE, AND NO CONCLUSIONS WERE REACHED; BOTH SIDES AGREED TO MEET AGAIN AT EXPERTS LEVEL THIS COMING FALL.

3. FOUERE SAID THAT TALKS RANGED GENERALLY OVER TRANSPORT, TEXTILES, AND AGRICULTURAL ISSUES, BUT THAT BULGARIAN REQUEST TO EC FOR GSP TREATMENT (REFTEL) WAS NOT DISCUSSED IN SUBSTANTIVE DETAIL. HE ALSO INDICATED THAT NEGOTIATIONS ON STEEL, WHICH OPENED IN GENEVA THIS APRIL, WERE RESUMED DURING THE BULGARIAN DELEGATION'S VISIT, BUT THAT THE EC HAS HAD NO SUCCESS SO FAR IN GETTING THE BULGARIAN SIDE TO TALK ABOUT SPECIFIC QUANTITIES. HE SAID EC NEGOTIATORS HAVE WARNED THAT BULGARIA, AS ONE OF THE LAST COUNTRIES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN LINE TO CONCLUDE BILATERAL ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE COMMUNITY, CANNOT EXPECT TO RECEIVE MUCH IN THE WAY OF TONNAGE. FOUERE ADDED THAT NEGOTIATIONS ON STEEL ARE TO CONTINUE EVENING OF JUNE 9 BUT THAT THE TWO SIDES ARE STILL NOT CLOSE TO AGREEMENT. HINTON

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